



William V. "Bill" Bell
Mayor
(Term expires 2011)



Cora M. Cole-McFadden
Mayor Pro Tempore
Ward 1
(Term expires 2013)



Farad Ali
At-large
(Term expires 2011)



Eugene A. Brown
At-large
(Term expires 2011)



Diane N. Catotti
At-large
(Term expires 2011)



Howard Clement, III
Ward 2
(Term expires 2013)



J. Michael Woodard
Ward 3
(Term expires 2013)

City of Durham

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Be Informed – Watch DTV8

CityLife

"CityLife" is a half-hour talk show produced by the City's Office of Public Affairs that informs citizens about Durham City government services, issues and upcoming events.

City Hall This Week

"City Hall This Week" is a news program that informs Durham residents about what is going on inside Durham's City Hall.

Both shows air on DTV8 (Time Warner Cable channel 8) and on demand on the City's website or visit www.durhamnc.gov/dtv8 for airtimes. Look for DTV8 also on Facebook.

Prepared by the City of Durham Office of Public Affairs

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City Council Guide



www.durhamnc.gov





Citizen Participation



The City of Durham values your opinion and invites you to address the City Council on any matter of interest to you or your community.

City Council is the legislative and policy-making body for Durham and is the final authority on most matters relating to the City. The Council is responsible for establishing general policies for the City; appointing the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and members of various boards and commissions; enacting ordinances, resolutions and orders; reviewing the annual budget; and authorizing contracts on the City's behalf.

Council Composition

The City of Durham has a council-manager form of government. City Council is comprised of seven members: three members from specific wards, three at-large members and the Mayor. The terms for City Council seats are staggered. Nonpartisan elections are held every two years.

Council Meetings

Work Sessions

The City Council holds a work session two Thursdays per month preceding its regular business meeting to receive information briefings and presentations. The work session is held at 1 p.m. in the Council's Committee Room (located on the second floor of City Hall). At its work session, the City Council discusses departmental items on the Council's agenda and asks questions of City staff relating to agenda items.

In addition, citizens can address the City Council at work sessions to express a matter of interest or a concern. For guidelines on Citizen Matters see "Citizen Participation - Citizen Matters."

Regular Business Meetings

The City Council convenes its regular business meeting every first and third Monday at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall (101 City Hall Plaza). The meetings are open to the public and can also be viewed live on DTV8 (Time Warner Cable channel 8). Meetings are also streamed live and on demand on the City's website, www.durhamnc.gov.

Citizen Matters

Citizens may address the City Council about a matter of concern at Council's work session meeting (held two Thursdays preceding the Council's regular business meeting.) "Citizen Matters" are heard in the Council's Committee Room beginning at 4 p.m.

Citizens who wish to address the City Council at the work session must submit a written request to the agenda coordinator 10 calendar days prior to the work session at which they wish to speak. This process gives City staff adequate time to review the citizen's concern in advance and to give a response to the citizen when he/she appears before Council.

Should a Council member wish to allow a citizen who has not submitted a written request to present an issue at the work session, a two-thirds majority vote of the Council is required to suspend the rules of procedure.

To address Council at a work session, complete the form available on the City's website, www.durhamnc.gov, under "City Council." Forms are also available in the City Manager's Office. Requests can also be faxed to 560-4949, or mailed to: Agenda Coordinator, City Manager's Office, 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC 27701.

Public Hearings are held by the City Council to give citizens the opportunity to comment on current issues involving the city. Public hearings are advertised and placed on the Council's agenda to receive citizen remarks.



To make comments at a public hearing, citizens can sign up in advance of the meeting by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 560-4166. Citizens can also sign up at the time of the Council meeting by using the "Speaker's List" card located at the City Clerk's desk in Council Chambers.

Citizen Boards and Commissions

The Mayor and City Council appoint citizens to serve on 29 different boards and commissions that address various aspects of Durham's quality of life - from open spaces and trails to historic preservation to workforce development.

Citizens interested in serving on a board can get an application from the City Clerk's Office on the second floor of City Hall. An application is active at the time of vacancy only. For information, call the City Clerk's Office at 560-4166.

Staying Current: Agenda Items and Actions

To learn about current or recent Council actions, visit the City's website at www.durhamnc.gov. Under the "Inside City Hall" heading, select "City Council" then "Agendas".

You can also call Durham One Call, the local government customer service and information center, at 560-1200.

Voting and the Ward System

The residency ward system of selecting City Council members exists to provide representation on City Council from different areas of the city. The concept of residency wards means the City Council candidate must live in the ward he/she seeks to represent, but the candidate is elected by all city voters. Wards do not affect where a citizen votes or which candidate(s) a citizen can vote for.

To vote, a citizen must be registered 30 days before an election. Citizens can register to vote at the Durham County Board of Elections Office (706 W. Corporation Street). Applications may also be obtained at any public library and the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles. After registering, applicants will receive a card from the Durham County Board of Elections providing precinct and polling place locations. For information, call the Durham County Board of Elections at 560-0700.